

the Bullet



Mozart



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Volume 79, No. 19

Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922

March 23, 2006

Deck Now In Progress

BETH KRIETSCH
Staff Writer

With construction of Mary Washington's new \$6 million parking deck moving along as planned, commuters may find it easier to find parking spaces for their vehicles next semester.

According to Bernard Chirico, vice

president for student affairs, Donley's Inc began construction on the 150,000 square-foot facility in Sept. 2005.

The new four level, 440-space parking deck will be located behind Goolrick, over the existing Alvey Drive parking lot. Alvey Drive will remain closed for the next five weeks as pre-cast sections of the parking deck are delivered to the construction site.

"The construction has begun, and within the next five weeks a whole structure will be up," said Richard Hurley, executive vice president and chief financial officer at UMW. "They put it up like an erector set."

The parking facility is being built as a result of the high demand for parking

► See DECK, page B8



Russell Howey/Bullet

Workers began constructing the parking deck recently.



Hayley Amey/Bullet

A mobile office sits outside of George Washington Hall. It will be used as a temporary structure to house displaced offices while the building is undergoing renovation.

Trailer Parks

Temporary Office Facility Takes A Spot In GW Lot

By KATIE TELLER
News Editor

A mobile office has moved into the parking lot behind George Washington Hall to temporarily house the offices of business and

finance workers, who are located in the basement of George Washington.

The offices are being moved so that workers can alleviate mold problems in the building, according to an e-mail from Rick Hurley,

executive vice president and chief financial officer, sent to all faculty Friday, March 10.

According to the e-mail, the mold remediation project should be completed by the end of 2006, and at that time

the temporary office will be moved.

The departments that are moving include payroll, accounting and finance.

Another mobile office will move onto campus when Lee Hall undergoes renovations.

Workers Scape Land

By STACY HORNE
Staff Writer

Pruning, weeding, mowing, planting. It seems like there's always some kind of landscaping work happening.

According to Joni Wilson, director of Landscaping and Grounds, the landscaping work is never-ending.

No matter what time of year, one can always look out of a residence hall or classroom window and see landscaping work going on.

"Actually, the department employs 23 people to take care of the Fredericksburg campus, including Brompton, the Alumni Executive Center on Hanover Street, the apartments and the athletic fields," Wilson said.

► GROUNDS, page B8

Fitness Center Cracking Down On UMW IDs

By BETH KRIETSCH
Staff Writer

Unless you are trying to get in a little extra exercise, don't forget to bring your Mary Washington ID to the fitness center.

Due to stricter enforcement of the fitness center use policy, students, faculty, an partner, and spouses of

faculty members will no longer be admitted to the fitness center without their UMW issued photo identification cards.

According to Bob Liebau, associate director of campus recreation, due to security reasons, those who forget their ID's will have to return home or to the residence halls to get their cards before they will be able to enter the facility.

"We had to finally put our foot down," Liebau said. "Many students use the fitness center to get to Goolrick, and there is also a tendency of locals to try to gain access to the facility because it is nicer than many of the other fitness places in the area. We have this policy because we want to maintain the integrity of the facility for the people whose use it is intended."

Liebau said the two weeks prior to spring break served as a warning period as the fitness center staff transitioned into the new stricter enforcement of their security policies.

During this warning period, those who failed to provide identification at the front desk of the fitness center had to write their names down in a specific section of the sign-in book, and were

warned not to forget their ID's more than three times.

Liebau then sent them e-mails to inform them that there is a more concerted effort to make sure that all users of these facilities are associated with the university, and as a reminder, not to forget their ID in the future.

"The warning period was kind of a

► See GYM, page A2

5 Day Forecast



TODAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 56
Low: 34



FRIDAY
AM Clouds
PM Sun
High: 57
Low: 32



SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 58
Low: 31



SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 54
Low: 34



MONDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 63
Low: 40

Verbatim...

"We are just monkey-men and will eat your monkey friends."

—TJ Penzone



Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
News Editor



March 3—Residence life staff reported to police that, between 2:15 p.m. and 2:50 p.m., someone dumped numerous beer boxes, beer cans and beer bottles on the floor of the elevator in Russell Hall. According to police, the trash covered the floor of the elevator. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

March 12—A 20-year-old female resident of Willard Hall reported to police that someone stole the rear tire off of her 1995 Toyota Corolla while it was parked in the Sunken Lot. The tire is valued at \$80. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

March 13—A student reported to police that someone stole the license plate, valued at \$0, off of a 1993 Honda Civic while it was parked at the Battlegrounds. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

March 13—At 6 p.m., a 1-year-old female resident of Ball Hall reported to police that someone stole her blue iPod, valued at \$208. According to police, the student last saw her iPod in her backpack at Seacobeck Hall. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

March 14—A 19-year-old male resident of Jefferson Hall reported to police that someone stole a bottle of prescription medication from his room. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

March 19—Residence life staff reported to police that someone vandalized the southwest rear door of Randolph Hall. The doorframe was damaged and police said it looked as though someone was trying to gain entry into the building. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

Got a burning itch? Apply ointment.

Got a burning question?
Hot for answers?
All fired up?

Ask the newsies!

Katie Teller & Stephanie Tait
will assist you!

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UMW Grads Top In The Peace Corps

◀ CORPS, page A1

the Peace Corps representative in charge of recruitment at Mary Washington, as well as several other schools in the region.

"The Mary Washington students that I have interviewed are incredibly passionate and motivated," said Breuer. "They have a sincere desire for service and a commitment to help others. These students have had vast community service experience and are now looking for a way to help overseas."

Peace Corps representatives such as Breuer have been very active in the recruitment of Mary Washington students for some time, attending career fairs, presenting information tables in the campus center, and holding occasional information sessions.

"They tend to have a fairly high-profile presence on campus," said Johnson.

Breuer recently held an information session in the campus center, with about 45 students attending. She shared details of her own experiences serving in Nepal, as well as general information about joining the Peace Corps.

According to Breuer, there are currently over 7,800 volunteers working in over 70 countries, in a variety of fields, with Education and Health and HIV/AIDS employing the greatest amount of volunteers.

Breuer stressed the value of the skills acquired in the Peace Corps.

"Volunteers gain personal and professional skills that will last a lifetime - from working in grassroots development projects in education, business, and health to many other fields including environment, agriculture, and community development," said Breuer.

As far as geographical preferences, the Peace Corps takes volunteers' placement requests into consideration, however their primary goal is to place volunteers where their particular skills are most needed.

All Peace Corps volunteers commit to 27 months of service, including three months of

intensive training, which consists of language, technical, and cross-cultural training, varying by the needs of specific volunteers. Volunteers are paid enough to live like locals in the community, earning generous vacation time as well as a \$6,000 stipend at the conclusion of their term, meant to aid in their readjustment into society.

Although a degree is not a requirement for service, the majority of volunteers have been college graduates. Currently, 96 percent of volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree, while 13 percent also hold a graduate level degree.

In this year's rankings, Dartmouth College placed first among small colleges and universities, with 37 volunteers, and nearby schools the University of Virginia, James Madison University, and Georgetown University made up the top three medium-sized schools with 80, 65, and 54 alumni volunteers, respectively. With 104 volunteers, the University of Wisconsin-Madison took the title of top-producing school for the 20th year in a row, while the University of California at Berkeley remains the number one all-time top-producing school, with over 3,000 volunteers since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961.

Johnson expects that Mary Washington will remain a top-producing school.

"We tend to stay in a fairly consistent range," said Johnson. "With some years there may be a little more interest and some years a little less, but we tend to be a school that is positive in terms of our response to the Peace Corps."

He went on to conjecture that Mary Washington produces approximately 10-20 volunteers per year, "which is a fairly significant number for a school our size," he said.

Breuer strongly encouraged any interested students to contact her.

"I cannot think of a better way to combine service, a solid academic background, and an interest in cross-cultural exchange than by serving as a volunteer," Breuer said.

These students have had vast community service experience and are now looking for a way to help overseas.

—Christin Breuer

“ ”

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Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
News Editor



STEPH TAIT KATIE TELLER

Tait & Teller

Ask
The
Newsies

into the lot from the Sunken Road entrance, since the turn is too sharp. Therefore, they have to use the top entrance.

We know it seems like such a big inconvenience now, but those who have to hunt and peck for a parking spot will appreciate your patience as the parking deck is built.

Bottom line: The school is sacrificing your convenient entrance for the greater good. So hold your head a little higher, because by driving to the other entrance you're doing your own little part to help alleviate the parking crunch.

And while you're driving around, someone will probably take your spot.

Katie Teller and Stephanie Tait are The Bullet's news editors. Got a question? E-mail it to bullet@umw.edu.

W is the entrance to the Alvey and Arrington parking lots blocked off? It's such a pain to drive around.

We feel your pain, Tait especially, since she lives in Alvey Hall and Teller because she has to drive Tait home from the Bullet office every Wednesday night.

Alvey Drive, as it is appropriately called, is currently closed off due to construction to the new parking garage at the bottom of the hill.

Basically, huge trucks have to carry in these preconstructed pieces of concrete which they then construct to form the garage.

The trucks aren't able to make the turn

Merna Charged With Felonies

◀ MERNA, page A1

"All I can say is we are investigating incidents further," he said.

Snipes said a receipt in bag belonging to Merna contained numbers that corresponded with the numbers on a missing American Eagle gift card. Police verified this through a receipt from a previous purchase.

"I had bought my boyfriend shoes with part of my gift card and taped the receipt to the top of the shoe box, in case he wanted to return it," said Holly Harrell, Merna's former roommate. "When I noticed my gift card was missing and found her receipt in Tessa's bag, [my boyfriend] read me the numbers from his receipt and they matched."

Snipes said gift cards, by law, are classified as credit cards and, if used fraudulently, is a felony offense.

According to Snipes, after connecting Merna with the theft of the American Eagle gift card, police questioned Merna, who subsequently turned over the missing iPod and iTunes gift card.

This is not the first incident at UMW involving campus leaders, in 2004 Christina Wimmel, an honor council officer, pleaded guilty to petty larceny in connection with the theft of her roommate's credit card.

Merna confirmed that she is still actively holding all of her leadership positions on campus.

In 2003 Rebecca Turnbull, the incoming student body president, pleaded guilty to embezzling and petty larceny while she was president of the Association of Residence Halls. This is the same position Merna is currently holding.

Police referred Merna to the administration, but it has not been confirmed whether honor charges have been brought against her.

Going To The Gym? Bring Your ID Card

◀ GYM, page A1

re-learning time for students, to remind them to bring their IDs," Liebau said. "I sent out about eight or nine emails a day, and it was mostly the students who live off campus who forgot their IDs."

Many students have felt inconvenienced over having to return home to get their IDs before being able to enter the fitness center.

Laura Aller, a junior who lives off campus was one of the students who received an e-mail from Liebau as a result of forgetting her ID card. She said she often forgets to bring her ID to the fitness center because she does not have a meal plan anymore, and therefore doesn't usually bring her ID when she goes on campus.

Junior Katrina Perez was angered when she was denied access to the gym as a result of forgetting her card, and had to walk a mile back to her car to get it.

"I switch my wallets a lot, so sometimes I forget my ID," she said. "We all pay to go to this school, so it seems odd to me that we would be denied access to the facility just because we forgot our ID cards."

Members of the fitness center staff think the warning period was fairly effective in serving as a reminder that people need to present their ID cards in order to gain access to the facility.

"I guess the warning period worked, because since spring break nobody has tried to come in without an ID card while I was working," said Jaclyn Gebbia, junior and fitness center staff member.

Jessica Simon, junior and fitness center staff member said that while most students have been remembering to bring their UMW IDs lately, the policy is still difficult to enforce.

"We are trying to be more hardcore about it, but it's hard to turn people away when you know the people who forgot their cards," said Simon. "It's hard to tell someone to go back and get their ID when you have classes with them and know that they go to this school."

According to Liebau, the fitness center is working on transitioning into having an ID scanner on the front desk of the fitness center sometime in the near future.

"The scanner will help with security because it will tell us if people are eligible to use the facility," Liebau said.

He said the scanner system is taking a long time to implement because it has to be worked into the Banner system.

He hopes it will be up and running by the end of this semester or by the time summer classes start, but said that it should definitely be ready by Fall 2006.

Got an Opinion?
We doubt it.

But in case you do...
Send it to us!

bullet@umw.edu

Viewpoints

More
Viewpoints
Pages
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Editorial Hey, Keep This Profile Personal

When we were little, it seemed like our teachers lived at school. They weren't allowed to go grocery shopping or to the movie theater. As far as we knew, they ate dinner in the cafeteria and slept on our naptime nugs.

In college, we all know our professors have lives outside of the classroom, but we still honor the divide between academics and everyday life. It would be disconcerting to see your economics professor doing a keg stand in someone's backyard on a Friday night.

Professors and, even worse, employers who log onto Facebook.com are crashing the party. By checking our profiles, they see beyond the image we present in professional situations. The same students they see attentively taking notes in class and working diligently in the office are the ones they can find chugging beer and in Facebook pictures. And that's OK—students have lives too.

Students join Facebook for fun, with the expectation that only their peers will use it. When authority figures use Facebook for purposes other than its original intent, it feels like a breach of social norms.

We believe in separation of workplace and weekend. Everyone has a life outside of the professional environment, and college students are known for having a good time. Just as students don't judge what our authority figures are doing on Saturday nights, professors and employers should not be stealing glances into our personal lives. But, if you really can't resist, please don't let these glimpses into our personal lives influence your perceptions of our work habits.

Let's Cut Our Losses

Dear Editor:

It has been three years since our government invaded Iraq with the purpose of stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction; of course we know that later the rationale became the spread of democracy. Three years in, and we still have not achieved one of our objectives.

There have not been any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq for nearly a decade. We have forced elections, but the country remains plagued by an active insurgency, hardly the welcoming greeting we were promised. Iraq is being torn apart by sectarian violence fueled by the ethnic tensions exacerbated and brought to the surface by our invasion.

We all know that Iraq is in a sorry state of affairs, and the only ideas being offered by our government are to either keep our soldiers there

indefinitely, or to train an Iraqi army to take our place—the "Vietnamization" of Iraq. Neither of these ideas will work.

Keeping our troops there will only fuel the insurgency, continue to fracture Iraq's diverse ethnic groupings and expose our soldiers to the dangers of death and injury.

Replacing our soldiers with an Iraqi army, which after three years of training still has not a single battalion capable of independent action, would also be a failure of epic magnitude.

We have so far wasted billions of dollars and three years of effort on a force that has yet to materialize, and arming the different ethnic factions will only give each side an army before a full-blown civil war breaks out.

Arming each faction won't provide stability, but will only serve to exacerbate tensions further by raising the stakes of ethnic conflict,

and making the possibility of repetition of the experience in Bosnia in Iraq all the more likely.

The best possible solution to our current crisis is to pull our soldiers before we aggravate tensions further.

Replacing them with an international peacekeeping force composed of soldiers from Islamic countries fully funded by the coalition of the willing is the best way to reduce the violence and heal the rifts between Iraq's diverse ethnicities. An Islamic peacekeeping force would not be seen as an invader, and thus might actually fix the mess our government has made.

Continued occupation is not the answer. It only benefits those interested in keeping the conflict raging.

Phil Arnone is a sophomore.

Location, Location, Location

By CHARLOTTA JARBORG
Guest Columnist

You know you're caught up in the rush of housing selection when you're more concerned about what side of a certain dorm faces north than midterms or post-midterms, as the case may be. The only questions going through my brain are: Will I or will I not live in a roach-free environment, will I enjoy air conditioning, will I be able to live above the gloom of the basement and will the closets come equipped with doors?

Housing selection is, indeed, an all-consuming pastime, if you let it become so. For instance, you have to squeeze some dorm shopping into your schedule. Try visiting other dorms, either through friends or for sport: waiting for someone to enter or exit a dorm.

Once you're in the hall is yours to explore. Despite the creepiness factor, take notes on the dorm's vital stats. Where's the kitchen? Does the dorm only have one? Is it gross? What do the rooms look like? Does it seem like a social dorm? Does it have a TV lounge and if so, does the TV actually work? All of this is relevant on

this campus. However, the best way to gather information is to find a roommate and let them give you the lowdown.

When you're done browsing, you can figure out all your alternatives. Sadly, few of us get our first pick. At least now you'll be prepared at housing selection when you realize that the dorm of your dreams is at maximum capacity.

Although I'm a rising junior housing still is a mystery to me. In spite of the fact that I have the lowest number of roommates of my classes, I ended up with the best lottery number. This happened last year as well.

One of my roommates is only a couple short of senior status, so we were waiting on her to get a good number. She ended up with one of the lowest. Once you belong to a certain class, it all depends on lad's luck. My suggestion to Residence Life is to make categories. That way, there's still some sort of fairness. If you're on the high end of the junior class, it makes more sense to get a room number, than say, someone like me. On the side, a small part of me gets some sick pleasure from it nonetheless—not gonna lie. Coming in with zero credits, not exactly overloading

myself and still finding the number, it's like a game system. It's so much fun to play that it makes life unfair for all those busy bees out there, collecting credits like honey. They deserve better numbers. Hey, isn't that why we're friends with them?

When you're a junior and you're still living on campus, you want a dorm that makes a statement. And by statement, I don't mean, "I'm garbaged." I'm talking good location, nice rooms and no cockroaches. That means you, Randolph. I don't ever want to see the words "roaches" and "ravage" next to your name in *The Bullet* again, no matter how poetic all those R's sound together.

From what I hear, the actual housing selection night itself isn't too much fun. It's supposed to be the worst combination of boredom and anxiety, kind of like studying

for exams except with a list of dorms to live in, a cell phone so you can chat while you wait and a lack of patience. Oh, and you'll need something to perk you up, too—like a PowerBar. Or a damn fine number.

Charlotta Jarborg is a sophomore.

Think Globally, Eat Locally

By MATT TUCKER
Guest Columnist

Sustainable agriculture is the philosophy of creating a sense of community through food production. The goal is to use the least amount of energy possible to produce food in a manner that sustains the environment, community and farmer.

People who eat sustainable foods receive more nutrition from the fresher food. We can create a year-round sustainable food supply in Fredericksburg, and the entire state of Virginia.

You can find fresh, healthy food through farmers' markets and community support agriculture (CSA) programs. Fredericksburg has both.

A CSA involves going to a set location to pick up your share of produce each week, while a farmers' market is just—a market. The kinds of vegetables available change each season, so farms will only provide certain vegetables when in season.

I recently visited Amy's Garden, a small farm outside of Richmond, an example of sustainable agriculture. Although Amy does not sell salad greens during the winter, they grow in her garden throughout the year. The farmer's season does not have to end; we can produce food year-round in Virginia.

Amy and George Hicks's salad mix has the benefit of freshness, taste and two enthusiastic farmers behind the product. Farmers who sell to

wholesalers must produce tougher greens that will last through shipping to the point of sale, and the consumers pay for the shipping and marketing costs for lower-grade produce.

Amy invited me into her home, a lightly-decorated and unpretentious house, built perfectly for two. She served me ice water in a mason jar and directed the conversation toward customers at the farmer's market.

"Most people see an eggplant and ask me, 'What do I do with this?' expecting me to offer some sort of recipe, so I do offer some to my CSA members," she said. "But in reality, it's just an eggplant. It's very simple to cook."

Amy does not see the need for an elaborate recipe, and wondered, "Do people cook anymore?"

People often forget that the processed foods were once individual ingredients from the ground. All those plus-ingrediants in a cracker came from a farmer.

Someone in the Dominican Republic hacked down some sugar cane for that Surpree you drank

last night. Even the flavoring may originate from produce.

An organic food system is practical and Amy's Garden is a good example. We do not need pesticides to grow produce on a mass scale. Rodale, a company that supports organic agriculture, successfully farms 320 acres of organic farmland.

George, Amy's husband, added that pesticides come from the nerve gas chemicals used in World War II, so he will not promote pesticide use.

He explained, "I have friends who grow on thousand-plus acre farms and swear by pesticides, but that food has no taste. I understand there are some people who have no interest in food, but if I want to eat well, I want organic."

Although the mid-Atlantic cannot sustain itself under the current food production system, other cities demonstrate the practicality of local farming. Cuba sustains itself through urban agriculture programs where citizens farm their own plots of land.

Hong Kong grows 45 percent of its consumed

vegetables on the small amount of available land outside of the city-state, according to "Examples of Urban Agriculture in Asia" by Yue-man Yeung. Amy and George sustain themselves by trading with other local farmers and as a result, they eat well.

Large farms may feed more people, but they do not feed the world. The mass production of grains lowers the price of food, and as a result, hurts developing countries that depend on their food exports.

In addition, Americans spend around 10 percent of their income on food, less than any other nation, according to "Fresh Choices," a book by Rochelle Davis and David Joachim. We do not buy enough fresh, healthy food because it might cost a little more.

A collection of local producers is the best outlet to feed a community. Nothing goes to waste. Although organic is good, sustainable is better.

How to act:

- 1) The farmers' market provides fresh and reasonably priced produce. The farmer's market in Fredericksburg City is in Hurkamp Park on Prince Edward and George streets.
- 2) Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares are available in Fredericksburg and all over the country (check localharvest.com for a farm near you).
- 3) Visit a farm and get connected with local farmers. Create demand for local produce.

The Fredericksburg Farmer's Market is open Monday through Saturday starting at 6 a.m. The best day is Saturday and it is best to arrive before noon.

Find out more about Amy's Garden at localharvest.org/farms/M7649.

Matt Tucker is a senior.



Bullet

www.thebulletonline.com

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The *Bullet* is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, Independent of The *Bullet* adviser.

Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to *The Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-3666, or delivered to our office in Seabecock Hall or sent to our e-mail address at bullet@umw.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact *The Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

Features

The XBox Factors Into Student Life

By RACHEL NANIA
Staff Writer

I was freezing. My feet had gone numb two hours ago despite my three layers of socks and disposable toe warmers, I was shaking uncontrollably, and my face was so numb that I was oblivious to the snot running down it.

"Are you OK?" my boyfriend asked, looking down at me, curled up in a ball and hiding underneath a massive pile of blankets on the sidewalk outside of Best Buy.

A long drawn out groan was all that I could reply.

That cold December night I fell asleep to the sound of male 20- and 30-somethings, who were willingly spending the night outside of Best Buy to get their hands on an Xbox 360 that was being released the following morning, conversing in a video game vernacular that I most certainty did not understand. And disturbingly enough, my boyfriend was one of them.

I was awoken in the middle of the night when I rolled out of my sleeping bag and onto a pizza box covered with picked-off pepperoni and green pepper remains from the pizza we had ordered to the curb that night for dinner.

At this stage I had made it through nine hours of uncomfortable freezing boredom. And in those nine hours I was, unfortunately, exposed to more talk about various video game shooting methods than I had been in my whole life. Only five more hours more until Best Buy would finally open its doors to the all the crazed Xbox fanatics anxious to purchase one of the few \$399 Xbox 360s in stock.

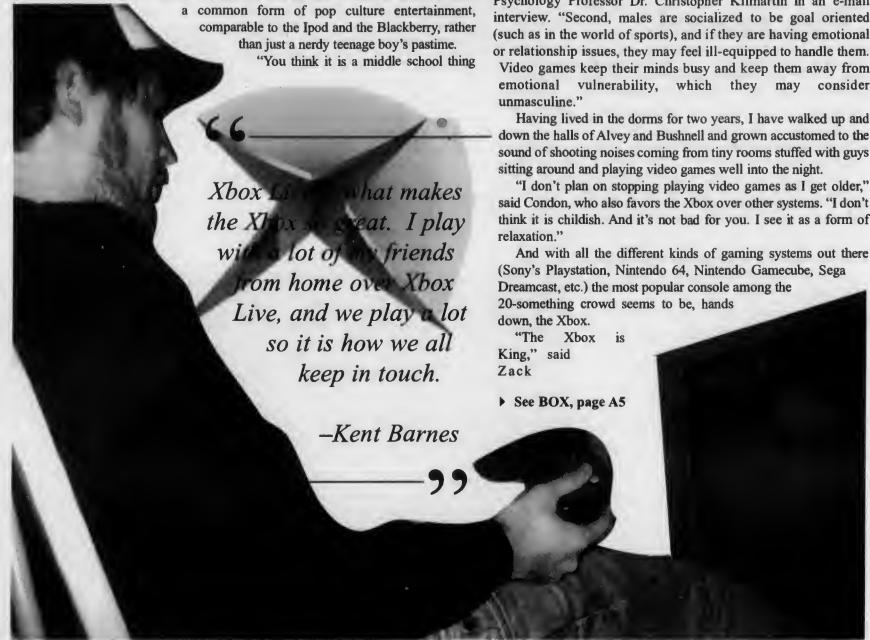
"I don't understand why guys are so obsessed with video games," I said to my boyfriend. "Especially at this age. Will you ever grow out of it?"

One can only hope. However, a poll commissioned by AOL Games and recently published in Time Magazine reported that roughly half of Americans ages 12 to 55 play some sort of electronic game.

With sleek new designs, high definition 3D

graphics, and built in DVD players, it is not surprising that video games are appealing to an older, more mature crowd. Dabbing into the virtual world of aliens and car races is now seen as a common form of pop culture entertainment, comparable to the iPod and the BlackBerry, rather than just a nerdy teenage boy's pastime.

"You think it is a middle school thing



Courtesy Kent Barnes

Senior Kent Barnes plays his new Xbox 360 in his apartment. He purchased his Xbox over winter break for \$399.

Students Go South For Spring Cleaning

By JESSICA SIMON
Staff Writer

When a group of seven University of Mary Washington students first stepped into the home of an elderly woman named Ellena in Gulfport, La., they encountered the devastating effects that eight feet of water leave after sitting in a home for six months.

"The smells that came out of that kitchen were the most God-awful things that I have ever had the misfortune of laying my olfactory glands on," said sophomore Jessica Affeldt.

Over spring break the group led by sophomore Samantha Blackburn and Fredericksburg resident Derek Sharp traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi in efforts to repair and restore areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Over winter break Blackburn and Sharp first led a team consisting of three UMW students and Sharp's family to Gulfport, Miss. But for this trip over spring break, Blackburn and Sharp brought along six UMW students and two more Fredericksburg residents.

"I was more prepared this time since we had gone before," Blackburn said. "I was expecting for us to work as much as possible and to not get much sleep."

Blackburn, Sharp and the others officially decided on the trip only three weeks before spring break and had to raise as much money as possible in a very short amount of time. Through the donations from family and friends, as well as an Applebee's flapjack breakfast fundraiser, they raised \$1,500 for gas and supplies. Any extra money that they had was donated to relief charities.

The team left the first Saturday morning of spring break in one minivan and one pickup truck.



After spending the night in Atlanta, they arrived in Slidell, La. on Sunday and began their clean-up on Monday.

According to Blackburn, almost all of Monday and part of Tuesday were spent cleaning up the streets from all of the debris that the hurricane left. This was a bit frustrating for the group because they were hoping to do more than pick up trash over their stay.

"I think the general feeling of the group was, 'Why did we come all this way just to pick up trash?'" Affeldt said. "While we were picking up trash several people stopped to tell us thank you and that they appreciated what we were doing. Even before we had started working, people were thanking us."

On Tuesday afternoon the team left Slidell and drove to Gulfport where they worked over winter

break.

One of the most compelling moments of this part of the trip for Blackburn was seeing a house that they had begun repair on over winter break completely restored. The owners, an elderly couple, had already moved back in and even had all new furniture put in.

With the inspiration of seeing that house completed, the group set out on repairing another. The team began work on the destroyed home of an elderly woman named Ellena.

"Her house was such a mess. The water level was about eight feet in that area, so there was mold everywhere," Blackburn recalled. "We had to wear

► See BREAK, page A5



Photos courtesy Sam Blackburn

Sophomore Kirsty Shugrue (top left) helps an elderly woman clear debris from her home in Mississippi. Lorraine Jablonsky points to the height of the water damage after Hurricane Katrina hit.

Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down...



To designated drivers.



To battling seasons.



To juniors avoiding Ring Week pranks.



To toilet paper on the shoe.

Send your own thumbs to bullet@umw.edu

XBox: The New After-School Activity?

◀ BOX, page A4

Ward, senior math major and video game connoisseur. "It has better graphics than all other game systems, better loading times than other systems, a hard drive built into it, which no other system has, and a DVD player."

According to Ward, the built-in hard drive allows the player to save games onto the actual Xbox console, rather than onto an external disc, like many other consoles require.

The Xbox was first released by Microsoft in November of 2001, and since then has sold more than 20 million units, putting it in second place to Sony's Playstation 2, according to Time Magazine.

Games such as "Madden," an NFL inspired video game, "Call of Duty," a World War II themed video game, and the most famous of all Xbox games, "Halo," an alien shooting game, are what keeps gamers loyal to the Xbox.

What also sets the Xbox apart from the other gaming systems, aside from graphics and hardware, is the "Live" part of Xbox.

Microsoft's Xbox Live is an online service that enables its users to play games over the Internet. (Think of it as Instant Messenger plus video game party.) Users turn on their Xbox, log into the "Live" system, and are able to play anyone else who also online at the same time.

"Xbox Live is what makes the Xbox so great," said senior Kent Barnes, who prefers Halo above all other Xbox games. "I play with a lot of my friends from home over Xbox Live, and we play a lot so it is how we all keep in touch. I have also made some new friends [on Live] that I play with regularly."

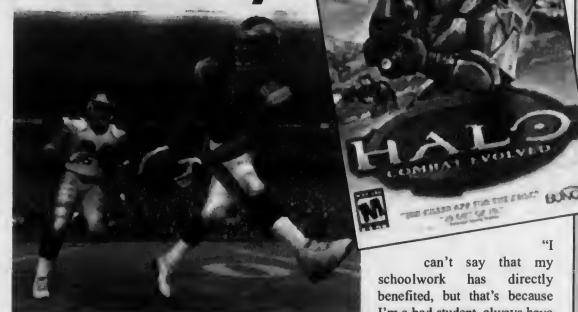
While its main function is to play video games, it accomplishes much more than that, performing as a communicative tool, a hard drive and a DVD player all in one.

But all the time students spend playing video games can't be good for them. Spending too much time playing can take time away from schoolwork, jobs, campus club activities, and social interactions.

The AOL survey reported that 1 out of 10 gamers admits to being addicted to playing video games. 1 out of 4 admits to losing nights of sleep in order to stay up and play games, and another quarter admits to being engrossed enough in a game to skip meals.

"Freshman and sophomore year I use to play 15 hours straight," said Bill Coningsby, a senior religion major. "But now I only play about three to four hours a month. I had to go cold turkey. Once I get started with a game, I don't have the discipline to keep my gaming to a reasonable amount of time."

Coningsby said that since he has cut back on his hours spent playing in the virtual world he spends a lot more time with people and participating in InterVarsity, a campus Christian organization.



Video games such as Madden (above) and Xbox's most popular game, Halo, keep fans loyal.

I can't say that my schoolwork has directly benefited, but that's because I'm a bad student, always have been, even before I had video games," Coningsby said.

But schoolwork, jobs and friends will have to be put on hold. Because the new craze is all about the Xbox 360, Microsoft's new and improved version of the Xbox.

According to Microsoft's Web site, the high-tech Xbox 360 comes equipped with new additions such as an ATI chip, which produces high quality graphics, developed by IBM; a 20GB hard drive that can be used to store an unimaginable amount of saved games, not to mention other forms of multimedia, such as digital photos and MP3s; and wireless controllers, just to name a few.

The only downfall: they are hard to get. Although they were released in November of 2005, consumers are having a difficult time finding them in stores.

Microsoft only sold 2.5 million units worldwide following the launch of the 360, due to problems getting some hardware components for the console, according to a report in The Washington Post. Because of the shorter-than-expected production rates, stores have received small shipments of the Xbox 360 (about 30 units each time) two or three times since its release, and expect full shipments come springtime.

This explains why I camped outside of Best Buy for a night. I was being a good girlfriend and was there to keep my boyfriend company.

It wasn't my best camping experience, but I'll admit it wasn't too bad, and we even made some friends in the process.

That night the employees of Best Buy handed out 38 tickets to the eager crowd gathered outside, ready to brave the cold throughout the night. Each ticket represented one of the 38 units they were releasing the following morning, and each person who possessed a ticket was guaranteed an Xbox 360 as long as they stayed in line the whole night.

We got ticket number 35.

Alternative Spring Break

◀ BREAK, page A4

masks it smelled so bad in there."

Affeldt agreed.

"I wanted to go home and make my grandma throw away anything that wasn't an absolute necessity just in case one day her house flooded and someone had to empty it for her."

Blackburn and her team went through Ellena's entire home trying to find any possessions worth keeping. Ellena cried when she found that the team had miraculously recovered small items such as china and a photo album.

Two years prior to the hurricane, Ellena's husband and son, who were both in the military, passed away. Unfortunately, the team was not able to recover the flags that she was given after their funerals. But according to Blackburn, Derek Sharp, who is also in the military, is trying to get her new ones and even hopes to have them flown over the Capitol.

Blackburn plans to return to Gulfport again in June to continue work on Ellena's house and start work on another if time permits.

The team also had an opportunity to spend one day in New Orleans to see first hand just how much damage the hurricane had done. They even walked the streets of the ninth ward, the most damaged area.

"You could feel the emptiness, it was almost like a ghost town," Sharp said. "If I had to paint a picture it would be filled with one color—gray."

Seeing New Orleans and the ninth ward showed the team that there is still plenty of work to be done to repair the wreckage of Hurricane Katrina.

"Being down there and seeing those people staring blankly around with no life in them at all was heartbreaking," said junior Susannah Jackson, who attended both cleanups over winter and spring break. "The only thing that really made it tolerable was knowing that you were in fact making a difference."

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JOIN US NEXT SPRING AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT ACADEMY!!

Viewpoints

Sexclamations The Benefits Of Friends

By Editor in Chief Betsy Crumb and
Staff Writer
Elz England, wanton sex goddesses

We're always taught to use the buddy system. It starts in kindergarten: hold hands when you cross the street; when you go to the zoo, find a friend. For many of us, this is carried over into college in more ways than one.

Yes, our faithful readers, we're talking about buddy sex (FB: you know what we mean but we can't print it explicitly). We mean, c'mon, who isn't at least intrigued by this idea? You're taking 18 credits, working 20 hours a week, have Frisbee practice and volunteer at the soup kitchen. You want to get laid, but who has the time?

Rather, who has the time for all those strings attached?

The media wants us to think that sex can be something that just gets you off, no extra baggage. And maybe it can.

But, the stark reality is this is a very fine line to walk. If you are indeed best friends, it's hard to add this emotional dimension without expecting other aspects to change. If Bobby, your best buddy, forgets your birthday, normally you'd forgive him when he bought the first round on Friday; but if you and Bobby are frequently gettin' freaky, it's easier to get miffed over this.

We're not saying this can't work, or it shouldn't work. But we want to encourage y'all to be realistic.

First of all, find your boundaries. In order for buddy sex to work, both parties must be in agreement as to how they will deal with the consequences in their friendship should things get a little hairy (and no, we're not referring to our past article, though that also may pose an obstacle for you).

It's hard to know how to act around someone you're sleeping with on the DL.

Do you act flirty or aloof? Don't sacrifice your friendship if you can't handle waking up with him or her the next morning.

Second, who is going to be privy to this relationship? Obviously, your next-door neighbors (pragmatic reasons), but will it extend beyond that? It might cause some awkward conversation if Bobby doesn't tell you that John knows and you start mackin' on John.

Which brings us to our next point: Is this exclusive? There are a lot of mental and physical risks to multiple sexual partners at once. We say this ad nauseum, but condoms don't adequately protect against all diseases—be safe. Further, are you going to be OK with Susie telling you about the gorgeous guy with the great body she's jonesing from religion class?

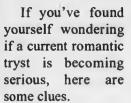
Finally, discuss the possibility of emotional attachment. It's not that weird, especially if you are good friends. Don't act surprised that sex can lead to emotional intimacy that may take your relationship to a whole new level.

Plan ahead and know what you will do if you find out your FB is more emotionally attached than you. Don't have a closed mind, though, because many serious relationships begin as friends realizing their sexual potential.

We're not discouraging buddy sex—it's worked out for at least one of us. Hell, if you can make it work, go for it, nothing better than getting laid without having to buy Valentine's Day gifts. But, again, be cognizant of what may happen; buddy sex rarely comes without any strings attached, despite everyone's original intentions.

We're Together, Seriously

A Slice of Relationship Advice from Corey Byers,
associate editor and jaded observer



If you've found yourself wondering if a current romantic tryst is becoming serious, here are some clues.

While the good times are rolling, the two of you have become fairly close. At parties and other social events the two of you are always seen together. When it comes to making plans, the words "we" and "us" are now the new standard.

Stop wondering if things have moved to the next level; consider the following series of occurrences that ring a serious bell in the tower of love.

Framed Pictures

Magnets on the refrigerator and pushpins in the wall just don't indicate commitment. When someone takes the time to put a coupled photo in an actual frame, you can count on this person sticking around for a while. It's a way of saying, "Hey baby, you are more important to me than a coupon for carrots." No one frames coupons or wall calendars for that matter. Frames: more work and a small sign of devotion.

Keys To The Jeep

Beep beep. OK, well maybe not the keys to your jeep, but exchanging keys to the humble abode is definitely serious territory. When you have to knock on someone's door, they usually respond with, "Who is it?" When you take the key and turn back the lock, there are no questions asked: the special someone on the other side knows exactly who it is.

Leaving A Little Something

Oops, I forgot my jacket over at your place... and my toothbrush and deodorant and well—you get the picture. When your

beau leaves those everyday items on your bureau, watch out—they will come back for more.

Leaving stuff in each others' rooms means this relationship has reached that comfortable point where you both know there is more to come. If one of you offers the other a full drawer for storage, that's an even bigger sign of commitment. Move aside, mismatched and stinky socks, my sweetie needs space.

Unabashed PDA

When you meet grandma for cookies and milk and there is some hand-holding with honey-bun, the public display of affection (PDA) is a big step. When you are first dating someone and you meet the family, you may be uncomfortable showing any physical affection. Showing off some hand-holding hotness to the family and friends means things have been kicked up a notch.

Joint Membership Cards

Blockbuster, Costco, the gym: all require plastic. When two people get membership cards to stores or clubs together, there is an underlying long-term expectation for the future.

Buying Non-Gifts

Let's say sugar-pie comes back from shopping and has a "gift" for you: perhaps a t-shirt or a new watch. Well, folks, if there is no special occasion for such a purchase, it means they thought of you while they were out on their own. And not only were you in their thoughts, but maybe they remembered you needed something as basic as a shirt.

Buying non-gifts means they know you will probably wear it and will see you in it later. As a result, the purchase is justified. When you and your wallet have arrived at Justification Station, their population level "us" has been achieved.



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Scene

"The Matches" Ignite Crowd Into "Motion"



Dan Cee/Bullet

Productions that rocked Great Hall well into the night

Men Women and Children (MWC), a New York band whose show consisted of outrageous costumes, fake dinosaur bone stage props, strobe lights and bubbles were by far the most interesting band to take the stage.

"This next song is all about photosynthesis," lead singer Tj Penzone said. "You guys are in college, you know what I'm talkin' about."

The miracle of sunlight into sugar wasn't the only subject to burst forth from the stage however. MWC performed an anthem that declared, "We are just monkey men, and we'll eat your monkey friends." The band required an audience response that consisted of "We're monkeys, we're monkeys, we're monkeys."

Murmurs of "It sounds like they wrote their lyrics while on acid" were heard on more than one occasion throughout the audience.

The next band, The Matches, followed the bizarre costume trend MWC set forth in the first set. The guitarist sported a Michael Jackson "Thriller" style red leather jacket while the lead singer rocked a bowler hat and Beetlejuice black and white striped pants.

The Matches provided the hardest of the four sets to perform that evening, rocking songs like "Audio Blood" and "Chain Me Free." The audience erupted into a seething mass of half-jumping, half-dancing, half-moshing humanity. They rocked so hard they could create an audience with three halves.

Unlike the other bands to perform that evening, The Format opened with a slower song, luring the audience into a trusting complacency before busting out their own brand of passionate rock. They performed a song off of their new album, still yet to be released that incorporated the keyboard into an intoxicating concoction of melody that fans familiar with the band's work have come to expect.

By ZACH BOWMAN, Scene Editor and WILL COPPS, Assistant Scene Editor

Imagine if the rock band from "The Muppet Show" came to life and began singing about the miracles of photosynthesis and monkeys. Imagine they brought with them a new concoction of music that felt like a gutter shot of '70s disco and '80s synthesizer. Imagine no more.

Last Monday, March 21, Men Women and Children opened a four-band set put on by Giant

All you need to know about Motion City Soundtrack, the evening's headliner, is that they were so set on bringing high amounts of energy to the stage had to be reinforced— for their keyboardist. Yes, keyboard player extraordinaire Jesse Johnson not only thrashed around constantly on stage, but did handstands on top of his instrument. The rest of the band had to follow the reminders taped to the stage monitors, "NO BIG JUMPS! Equipment may collapse." The warnings obviously didn't caution against the readily apparent stunts, sprints and emphatic fist pumps that took the place of the jumps.

Lead singer and guitarist Justin Pierre was so excited to be playing that he couldn't seem to

stop—the second a song was over he was getting out 500 words about the next. His excitement and admissions of nervousness just seemed to bridge the gap between the band and the audience.

When Motion City Soundtrack left the stage after tearing through their radio-friendly synth-rock, the crowd erupted into a chant of "One more song! One more song!" Pierre immediately returned to the stage and remarked "We're gonna play

you a couple." This seemed to be a common theme of the evening: the audience got more than what they asked for. That is, if they asked for more music, more bubble machines, more private references and more handstands from big dudes on keyboards.

Editors' Review



Dan Cee/Bullet

Tj Penzone of Men Women and Children points out to an amazed Mary Washington crowd in the Great Hall Monday night.

"V" Has A Vendetta For Original

**By ANDY DRAKE
Staff Writer**

Comic book fans have had more than their fair share of joy and heartbreak at the movies. For every "Batman Begins" and "Sin City" that gets everything right there's another "Fantastic Four" or "Electra" that make us reconsider whether comics should be made into movies at all. So where does Warner Bros.' new film rendition of "V for Vendetta" stand?

Comic writing genius Alan Moore has distanced himself from "V" (based on Moore's 1989 graphic novel of the same name). It's hard to blame him after the terrible film versions of his "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" and "From Hell." So does "V for Vendetta" manage to rise above the ranks of its predecessors? Has an awesome film adaptation of a Moore story finally arrived? Should Moore keep his mouth shut and take the royalty check? The answer depends on how you look at it.

Here's the setup: It's sometime in London's near future and a deadly plague blankets the rest of the earth. Norsefire, an oppressive Fascist government with the stated purpose of protecting London's populace from the plague has come to power under the watchful eye of Chancellor

Sutler (John Hurt). As it turns out Norsefire is controlling London through food shortages, secret police and media censorship.

Norsefire's counterpart and arch nemesis is V (Hugo Weaving), a supernaturally strong revolutionary who hides his face behind a Guy Fawkes mask. V rescues Evey (Natalie Portman) from an attempted rape by two police officers, which sets off a chain of events leading to V hijacking a television studio and announcing to the world that in one year's time he will destroy the parliament building and liberate London from Norsefire's oppression.

The movie's trailer proudly proclaims that "V for Vendetta" is the next film from the Wachowskis brothers, but don't go in expecting a special effects filled action extravaganza. There are some intense fight sequences, especially toward the film's finale but the action always takes a backseat to the film's ideas.

The main plot thread involves V's quest to bring down Norsefire by blowing up buildings, assassinating perverted priests and just being an all-around badass. Unfortunately, this aspect of the story is quickly overtaken by a subplot involving a Norsefire detective attempting to

discover V's identity as well as the true nature of the plague. The revelations this detective makes are interesting and lend a lot of surprising backstory but really have next to nothing to do with the main plot of the film.

One of the film's weaknesses in comparison to Moore's original comic is the way political ideologies on both sides of the conflict have been shifted to the middle. The story, which used to be about a violent anarchist's quest to stop a terrifyingly evil Fascist regime, has been toned down significantly.

For instance, Norsefire's concentration camps and violent racism, which were a major part of the graphic novel, are nowhere to be found in the film version. In addition, V uses painless poison in his clandestine murders instead of his deadly knives. It's a real shame that the filmmakers felt the need to dull down characters in an otherwise very edgy and cool film.

Fortunately, for the average movie-goer these problems disappear outside of the context of the original graphic novel and what's left is a thought-provoking drama with some really awesome action sequences. The performances are great all around, Portman is a picture-perfect match for Evey, and Weaving does a great job of

lending personality to a character with no facial expressions. There are a few noticeable plot holes (how do you order enough Guy Fawkes masks for every citizen of London without getting noticed?) but they're all in the service of awesome plot twists and surprises that are well worth the suspension of disbelief.

When the "V for Vendetta" film was announced many people (including Moore) believed the story to be unfilmable. James McTeigue and the Wachowskis brothers prove them mostly wrong. While hardcore fans of the graphic novel may be a bit disappointed, no movie since "The Matrix" has so successfully combined thought-provoking ideas with intense action and special effects.

"V for Vendetta"
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New Albums This Week

1. Band of Horses: "Everything All the Time"
2. Mclusky: "Mcluskyism"
3. From First to Last: "Heroine"
4. Richard Ashcroft: "Keys to the World [Bonus DVD]"

All CD release dates were March 21, 2006.
All CD cover art courtesy of allmusic.com.

Top 3 Movies

Photos courtesy of imbd.com



1. "V for Vendetta"



2. "Failure to Launch"



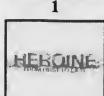
3. "Shaggy Dog"



1



2



3



4

How Are You Spending Junior Ring Week?



"Hiding out in my room."

-Samantha Blackburn,
Junior



"It's my chance to get back at my junior friends who've been messing with me. You know who you are."

-KJ Adler,
Freshman



"Screwing with the juniors."

-Jared Meyers,
Freshman



"I have all the time in the world to mark all my junior friends."

-Vitto Annathvong,
Senior



"Avoiding my non-junior friends."

-Katherine Lowry,
Junior

Requiem Reels In Listeners

BY BECKY WILLING
Staff Writer

No offense to the orchestra, of course, but I will be the first to admit that I am far from a connoisseur of the classical genre of music.

As I forced myself through the auditorium doors of Dodd Auditorium on Saturday night however, my predictions were quickly falsified. The entire theater was filled, every seat had a body in it, and there were still more people filing through the hallways and aisles trying to find seating. Faced with the crowd below, I headed up to the balcony.

Before the lights lowered and the performance began, I peered down to see who exactly was occupying my desired seat in the middle of the theater. The audience was not only packed with students, but even more prominently, with members of the community.

The reason for this immense turnout is due to the makeup of the orchestra as well as the Fredericksburg Singers, who accompanied the orchestra in the performance of Mozart's "Requiem." Both the orchestra and the chorus is made up of students and local residents, expanding the attendees of the evening from friends and family of the students to friends and family of the community members as well.

Sophomore Amy Feigenbaum, who plays the French horn for the orchestra, thinks that being part of the orchestra has been beneficial for both the students and the city of Fredericksburg.

"My section of the orchestra is made up of half students and half adults," Feigenbaum said.

Staff Review
"We all work really well together and I think the adults are really cool. It's been a great way for students and adults in the community to interact. It has also been beneficial to the orchestra as a whole because it has given us an outlet to gain community support. Our orchestra has raised a great deal of money this year. You can see how much support we get just from how packed the performance was."

Following the end of each piece the orchestra received a standing ovation from the entire audience, especially after Mozart's "Requiem."

Not that the other pieces didn't receive their deserved respects. Before the "Requiem," the orchestra played three beautiful pieces and did them all justice. Among them were Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky's "Capriccio Italien, Op. 45," Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Fantasia on Greensleeves" and L'Arlesienne "Suite No. 2" composed by George Bizet and arranged by Fritz Hoffmann.

One of my favorite parts of the entire performance, which may have seemed quite trivial to others, was the very detailed program distributed at the door. The program allowed me to understand and enjoy the "Requiem" on a greater scale.

Because I had no prior knowledge of what a "Requiem" even was, I had a feeling that I was going to be lost and bewildered throughout the entire performance. To my surprise, I opened the program and realized there were detailed descriptions of each piece of music played during the concert and the stories behind their composition.

According to the program, a "Requiem" is a piece of music composed in the memory of someone who has passed away, asking God to grant them eternal rest. The translation of the

Latin lyrics, which were also included in the program, is very similar to what is recited and what is practiced during Catholic masses.

Mozart composed the "Requiem," his final piece, in 1791 for the deceased wife of Count Franz von Walsegg, who tried to pass the work off as his own when it was finally finished. Mozart began composing the "Requiem" during his final days before his death on Dec. 4, 1791. The piece was finished in its entirety by his pupil Franz Xaver Sussmayr.

I was able to follow the lyrics as well as keep my place while I tried to figure out what was being sung. The chorus's ability to learn the pronunciation of the language and put it to music was one of the most impressive aspects of the night. I was not alone in feeling this, as I looked around the balcony, audience members were captivated by the voices and enlightened by the instruments.

Sophomore Katelynn Vance, a member of the Fredericksburg Singers, was pleased with their concert with the orchestra.

"I'll let you in on a little secret," Vance said. "The chorus and the orchestra rehearsed for the first time together the Saturday of the performance. I think we sounded pretty good in spite of that. It is hard to hear ourselves sing over the instruments, the only thing I could hear was the bass drum right next to me. It took a little while to balance our tempo with orchestra's at first, and we had to practice some songs a few extra times, but in the end we sounded great."

Along with Feigenbaum, Vance was amazed by the turn out.

"It's such a great feeling to look out into the audience and see so many people. The students in the choir were amazed; it blew all of our minds."

Bullet Hits

A Bullet Editor's Top Five Picks

This Week: Things To Do Other Than Go To Class

By KATIE TELLER
News Editor

It's almost the end of the year, the weather's finally warming up and the last place anyone wants to be is holed up in a sweaty old building learning things they'll forget immediately after finals. And there's nothing wrong with that.

1. Be active:

But not at the Fitness Center—the middle of a pretty day is not the time to be a gym rat. Throw a Frisbee around or play a game of soccer on Westmoreland lawn. This is especially fun if you organize an entire-class skip day, which everyone talks about but no one really ever does. Do it.

2. Catch some sun:

Put on your bathing suit and lie in the sun. If you're feeling guilty about skipping, catch up on some reading for that class you're missing. Or just take a nap.

3. Get wet:

And get your mind out of the gutter. Go tubing on the Rappahannock, or go swimming. The water's pretty cold, but you'll survive. And wear a life jacket—don't be another statistic. Those undercurrents will getcha.

4. Watch a movie:

But save this one for a rainy skip day—the kind of day when getting out of bed is just painful. When the April showers hit (or the March snowstorms), it feels pretty badass to relax with a movie and some friends. Maybe have a beer or two if you really want to feel like a delinquent.

5. Get away:

Take a walk downtown or get the hell out of dodge and take a roadtrip with some friends. Campus is pretty in the spring, but don't limit yourself to the confines of the University.

Disclaimer:

Obviously, there are precautions, a few duh-quid-pro-quot that I really need to say. Don't skip if it's an important class your graduation is hanging upon. Or if you have a test. But on any boring lecture day, there's no reason to show up. You're in college for four years (under normal circumstances) and life's too short.



Sophomore bassist Jennifer Feldhous bows Mozart's "Requiem" in last Saturday's concert.

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Sports



Daniel Ceo/Bullet

Senior Kevin Foeman winds up on the mound before launching the ball at a York College of Pa. opponent Saturday. The Eagles easily defeated the Spartans 17-1 after losing their CAC opener to York last Wednesday and are now 13-2.

Baseball Crushes York

Eagles Dominate Spartans After Tough Loss Wednesday

By MARIE PURKERT
Staff Writer

York College of Pa. learned the hard way that what goes around comes around.

After defeating the Eagles 17-14 last Wednesday in University of Mary Washington's CAC opener, the Eagles returned the favor Saturday with a 14-1 win over the Spartans.

According to junior Chris Anderson, UMW wanted to come out swinging.

"After we lost to [York] on Wednesday we really wanted to come out Saturday and prove that we were the better team," he said.

The Eagles did just that, getting off to a fast start at the plate.

UMW got on the board for the first time in the third inning after a RBI double by junior Eric Fitzgerald, followed by an RBI single from senior Lee Rubin.

York was only able to cross the plate once in the fourth inning off of an RBI double and had to withstand the flurry of runs that would follow from UMW.

Up 2-0, the Eagles scored two more runs in the fourth inning before exploding in the sixth inning with eight more runs to lead 12-0. UMW would add two more to the board for good measure in the eighth inning.

Leading the team offensively was senior right-handed pitcher Kevin Foeman, who allowed only one run, seven hits, and struck out 11 in his seven innings on the mound before sophomore Nate Hartman came in as closer.

Overall Foeman was pleased with his performance.

"It would have been better if I shut them

out, but I got the outs when I needed them," said Foeman. "We played great offensively."

Following closely behind Foeman on offense was junior shortstop Ray Moore who went 4-5 with two runs and two RBIs. Sophomore Chase Townsend and Anderson each had three hits for Mary Washington, while junior Mike O'Donnell, Fitzgerald, Rubin and junior Mike Murphy each had two hits,

We hope Wednesday's loss was a fluke and that Saturday's win is how we will play for the rest of the season.

-Senior Kevin Foeman

bringing the Eagles to a total of 20 hits for the game as opposed to the Spartans eight runs.

According to Foeman, it's his team's offense that gives him confidence on the mound.

"It's great for me when I have no doubt that the offense will score runs, which has been the case in the past few games," he said.

Anderson, one of the key contributors to Saturday's offense, was proud of his team's performance in all categories.

"Everything went right," he said. "Our pitching, defense and hitting were all great."

Foeman, who improved to 5-0 for the season, said although the opponent was the same, it's hard to compare UMW's two games with York.

"It's like apples and oranges, because so many different variables go into baseball," he said. "If they were back-to-back games maybe [I could compare], but I just feel that we played better on Saturday."

A few times on Wednesday our pitchers got in trouble because the wind would carry the ball off their bats, and what would normally be a routine fly out wound up being a home run or double off the wall."

Whatever the reason for the Eagles' loss in their first meeting with York College, the outcome of Saturday's game definitely warned the rest of the CAC of what's to come.

"We hope Wednesday's loss was a fluke and that Saturday's win is how we will play for the rest of the season," concluded Foeman.

Anderson agreed.

"I think we made a statement by winning 14-1," he said. "Coming back after a loss and beating a good team by that much shows what type of make up this team has."

If the Eagles continue to play as they did on Saturday, few teams stand a chance against their stacked offensive lineup and killer pitching.

The No. 21 Eagles are now 13-2 on the season. They will retake the field at Dickinson Stadium Saturday at 1 p.m. against St. Mary's College of Maryland, who they faced last night. Results were not in by the time *The Bullet* went to press.

The team hopes to improve to 15-2 by the close of Saturday's game.

Fans Have Reason To Cheer

By LAUREN BOSTON
Sports Editor

When you go to a Division III school one sports season often looks just like the next. UMW has always had a strong athletic program on the Division III level but there's still something missing.

Your teams are never featured on ESPN, instead of cheering from a seat in the stadium you have to sit on the floor in a court with less seating than a high school gym and there's no marching band to really get you fired up.

And then every once in awhile a season rolls around when everything changes. You're still not on TV, you're still sitting on the floor and you still don't hear any drumlines or trumpets, but you have a reason to really cheer.

For Eagles fans this year's winter season gave us one team in particular to put our faith in.

The women's basketball team made a strong run last year but no one ever expected the season we just witnessed, reminding us that there's something inherently thrilling about watching any team win game after game.

The Eagles started the season strong with a 7-0 run going into winter break. By the time students had returned for second semester UMW was boasting a 14-0 record.

With each win fans held their breath, questioning how long the Eagles could keep the streak alive. And with each win we breathed a sigh of relief, watching with pride as UMW became the only undefeated Division III team in the country.

The wins were exciting in their own right, but they also did a great service to women's basketball program. Women's teams at Mary Washington and in the field of sports in general usually have to fight much harder for a fan base and despite their record, have a more difficult time packing the stands than their male counterparts.

But by the end of the season the Eagles' undefeated record had the whole campus talking and finally brought a crowd the team had deserved for years. Fans were no longer coming at halftime to get a decent seat for the men's game. They were there for the women.

But it wasn't the record alone that drew people in. It was the players behind it. Who didn't look forward to seeing sophomore Liz Hickey block an opponent's shot with what might as well have been her elbow and then take it to the hoop on the other end for the basket and one? Or watching junior Debbie Bruen, who was named the Atlantic Region Player of the Year, perform consistently game in and game out with class.

It wasn't just a handful of players that

► See BASKETBALL, page B2

Upcoming Events

Mar. 23 - Women's Tennis vs. Williams, 3:30 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Georgetown, 3 p.m.
Softball vs. Catholic, 2:30 p.m.

Mar. 24-25 - Track and Field, Battleground Relays, TBA

Mar. 25 - Softball vs. Randolph-Macon, 12 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. Goucher, 1 p.m.

Mar. 26 - Women's Tennis vs. Muhlenberg, 10 a.m.
Softball vs. Ferrum, 12 p.m.

Mar. 29 - Women's Lacrosse vs. Marymount, 4 p.m.

Athlete of the Week

Junior swimmer Dale Parker placed 11th in the 100 Yd. Breaststroke at the NCAA Division III Men's Swimming Championships Friday with a time of 56.99, for a new CAC and school record and a lifetime best.



Courtesy Matt McLaren

Dale Parker



Daniel Cee/Bullet

Sophomore Katie Miglin positions herself to return the ball during Saturday's match against Washington College. The Eagle women defeated Washington 7-2 before falling to Washington & Lee University later that night, 8-1.

Team Results

Men's Basketball: 15-11, CAC Semifinals

Women's Basketball: 29-2, CAC Sweet 16

Men's Swimming: CAC Champions

Women's Swimming: CAC Champions, 14th at NCAA Championships

Eagle Women Split Matches

By STEPHANIE POTTER
Staff Writer

If effort alone carried over onto the win column, the Mary Washington women's tennis program would be undefeated this season.

On Saturday morning, the Eagle women proved how tough they were when they faced off against Washington College.

UMW won 7-2 and kept their momentum in a hard-fought loss to Washington & Lee University on Saturday evening, 8-1.

UMW's opening matches against Washington College gave the Eagles a real confidence boost. The Eagle women won all three of their doubles matches, coupled with four singles wins to end the dual match with a final score of 7-2.

Head coach Patrick Catullo was pleased with his team's performance.

"They keep impressing me," he said. "They continue to make strides and again we do not know how far we're going to climb. We're certainly making some real good progress."

Singles wins included sophomore Natalie Fugate's defeat over Beth Foster; freshman Stephanie Kurti's win over Kristen Hossick; freshman Rebecca Morse-Karzen's win over Lydia Bull; and freshman Katherine Malpeil's win over Ryoko Sawada.

Doubles wins included Morse-Karzen and freshman Kelsey Mansmann's defeat of Kristen Hossick and Bull; sophomore Katie Miglin and Fugate's win over Allison Daciek and Foster; and senior Gayle Smith and Kurti's win over Blake Lesser and Kate Barston.

Morse-Karzen was proud of her team.

"I thought the team played very well this weekend," she said. "We pretty much swept through Washington College."

Despite UMW's decisive win, the Eagles could not keep their winning streak alive that

evening against second ranked Washington & Lee University, fighting until the very end of every match to no avail.

UMW struggled and could only manage to secure one doubles win, achieved by Kurti and Smith over Natalie Day and Rebecca Timmis, 9-8 (4).

Despite the loss, Morse-Karzen says UMW put up a strong fight.

"We definitely gave Washington & Lee a run for their money," she said. "I think the team now knows what we have to do in order to beat Washington & Lee, and it has motivated us to work harder so we can."

Catullo agreed.

"Washington & Lee was heads and tails a better performance than I saw last year," he said. "The Washington & Lee match, we were actually in the match. We had several girls go to three sets and so we were very competitive with them. We just now need to learn how to win those kinds of matches."

Kurti was impressed with her team's ability to fight until the end.

"The match against Washington & Lee was a lot closer than the score looked and I can't wait for our next opportunity to play them," she said. "After playing Washington & Lee, all of us realize we have the potential to match up to them. Seeing how close the score was with such a prestigious team just proves how great our team is and how awesome we can be."

Catullo has high hopes for his team's future.

"[We need to] keep playing nationally ranked programs," he said. "Hopefully they're going to take something with them from last weekend. We're still making adjustments. We're ironing out all of our teams and as long as we're ready to go in May that's the most important thing."

The Eagle women are now 6-2 and will host Williams College today at 3:30 p.m.



Daniel Cee/Bullet

Senior Erin Rantz makes a diving catch during the Eagles' doubleheader against Eastern Mennonite on Saturday. UMW swept the Royals behind a one hit pitching performance by senior Abbey Wineland, who lasted a full seven innings.

Softball Sweeps Royals

Wineland's Pitching Leads Eagles Past Eastern Mennonite

By NICK NELSON
Staff Writer

Despite the recent wintery weather, the University of Mary Washington softball team proved on Saturday that they are nothing but red hot.

The Eagles assaulted the Royals of Eastern Mennonite University Saturday with a flurry of hits and precise pitching to win both games, the second in extra innings.

The first game opened with a bang; the Eagle defense sealing Eastern Mennonite three-up-three-down before taking control on offense and scoring the first run.

The game quieted down for a bit offensively until an explosive third inning, when freshmen Amy Edmondson and Mo Murtagh drove in three runs with two home runs, sending the home

crowd into frenzy and leaving Eastern Mennonite with little hope.

Despite the score, Murtagh said the Royals never gave up.

"They're a great team," she said. "They were right up there, and they kept with us the whole way."

The Royals attempted to pull back into the game, earning their first and only hit in the fourth inning. But thanks to Wineland's one-hitter performance, their offense was quickly aborted as UMW won in a 5-0 shutout.

After a short period of rest for the Eagles and recovery for the Royals, the second game of the doubleheader got underway.

Freshman Nicole Foster took the mound for the Eagles, and pitched four shutout innings in a solid performance. The Eagle offense brought in a run in both the first and fourth innings.

However, single runs in the sixth and seventh innings by Eastern Mennonite tied the game, sending it into extra innings.

With the suspense of overtime looming, Murtagh came through in the eighth inning with a clutch infield single just deep enough to send the runner on third to the plate, winning the game for the Eagles, 3-2. Four errors on the Royals' end helped UMW pull off the win.

Head coach Dee Conway was pleased with her team's performance.

"[The Royals] were a strong opponent," she said. "We played two huge games, in which everything went well for us."

Murtagh agreed, but also saw room for improvement.

"We could have hit more consistently," she said. "We stayed intense though, and executed when it counted."

Eagles End On Top

◆ BASKETBALL, page B1

made the team successful though. UMW had an incredibly deep roster, with every single player more than capable to put points on the board.

Covering the games each week, what impressed me the most was the respect team members had for one another.

When you've attended enough games you start to notice not only the action on the court but on the sidelines as well. Each time I looked over every girl on the bench was always cheering their teammates on and seemed to be having such a good time.

I know you're thinking, of course they were having a good time, they were undefeated. But I have a feeling things wouldn't have been much different had the record been less favorable. In the world of college sports it's easy for athletes to forget what made them play the game in the first place, and it was nice to see players that thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

However, it isn't only players that were responsible for an amazing record. Behind every great team there's a great coach, and Deena Applebury has been no exception. She has managed to bring the team to their best record in school history (29-2) and was named Russell Athletic/WBCA Regional Coach of The Year. Record aside, it's refreshing to see a coach that acknowledges her players when they come out of the game, puts them on back, and reassures them that it's OK after a turnover or missed free throw.

Looking back on the season and all the awards and titles too numerous to name, it's going to take something special to bring back the magic of this season, something tells me the women's basketball program has only begun to show us what they can do.

With that said, we'll see you next year.

Love spring sports? Want to see your name in print?

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See B5

looking at the world from a new perspective
The Periscope



See B4

March 23, 2006

B3

A Publication of the International Academic Services Paid Section

BONY RUMPS AND OSTRICH JUICE

Courtney Knott in Stellenbosch, South Africa

As I stood in line, I heard my mother's last nagging advice telling me to take every opportunity, or she'd be disappointed in me. With her voice echoing in my head, I decided to seize the moment and ride an ostrich.

Now this may sound like a strange event, but it was one of the many adventurous activities I participated in during my semester in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

I was the third or fourth person in queue with two tough, macho guys in front of me waiting their turn. The current rider, a girl from our group, was suddenly thrown as the ostrich started to reverse, sending the rider over its head to the ground.

The ostrich looked like a rearing stallion. It proceeded to step on her face.

Luckily, she was too confused to panic, but ended up with a hoof-like mark on her cheek.

The ostrich keeper looked for the next rider, but those burly guys who were in front of me were mysteriously at the end of the queue, leaving me in the front.

I decided to be brave, or foolish, depending on your point of view, and volunteered to go next. The ostrich keeper picked out an ostrich and put a small sack over its head.

Ostriches are not known for their extreme intelligence, or any intelli-

gence for that matter, and when a bag is placed over their heads they assume they are asleep and become docile and easy to control.

The keeper brought over my ride while I climbed a fence in order to hoist myself up.

Sitting on the bird was not very

offered all the girls. Since the burly boys lacked the courage to ride after the previous girl's mishap, I declined his offer.

Next thing I knew, he whipped the bag off the ostrich's head and gave it a smack on the rump, and off I went. It was quite an adrenaline rush.

You might not realize how fast this skinny-legged bird can run, but I'm here to tell you that this bird flew. Not literally, of course.

I was one of only two people who managed to stay on the speed demon. I actually had to dismount, which consisted of unwrapping my legs, releasing my death grip on the wings and slipping off the back.

It is hard to put my triumph in words, but I dominated that bird.

Did I mention that an ostrich's brain is the size of a pea?

Anyway, when we all finished the ostrich keeper gave us a refreshing glass of ostrich juice to cool off and allow our blood pressure to return to normal.

Some of my group members also fell for this clever trick. Ostriches do not produce juice, which makes sense, since the juice tasted suspiciously like mango.



Courtney Knott astride an ostrich in South Africa.

comfortable, I must admit. It was quite bony and awkward.

I guess the rider's comfort was not a consideration in the bird's original design.

I had to wrap and lock my legs around the ostrich's chest and hold on tightly to the wings where they met the shoulders.

The keeper offered to hold on to me for my safety while I rode, as he had

FROM BRAHMA TO BUDDHA

Jessica Rigel in Dharamsala, India

Let me begin by stating that the Himalayas Trek was the primary reason why I decided to come on the Pacific Village Institute's program.

I always wanted to do something like the trek, but have previously lacked the courage required to gather friends to join me in submitting to the will of Mother Nature. Knowing that I would be in the Himalayas and that there would be no escape, I decided that this trip was the one I should pick.

Oddly enough, since accepting PVI's generous invitation to participate, I

have been absolutely terrified about the one aspect of

the trek that initially appealed to me the most.

The anxiety concerning the trek had been progres-



sively growing since I'd

eaten by snow leopards? Or

caught in a blizzard, or rock slide? What if

something horrible happened

and we were forced to hunt

each other in some primordial

Lord of the Flies nightmare?

Needless to say, levels of

such anxiety are not

healthy.

The first day that we

were to begin walking,

a mere three-hour walk no

less, I became

violently ill

before we'd even begun.

>See Brahma, page B5

FEATURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

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GET PUBLISHED!

If you have read through this edition of "The Periscope," and have experienced any of the following symptoms: chronic fatigue, loose bowels, incessant nausea, you're to blame. Had you simply set aside an hour to relate a brilliant, epic tale to our readers, not only would you receive excessive praise from your lowly peers, who also failed to submit to the paper, but you could have also received a free Russian Mail-Bridge with only 12 proofs of purchase.

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THE PERISCOPE

TEA, CRUMPETS AND STOVE TOP

Adele Chapin in London, England

My Dutch friend, Janey, couldn't understand the concept of Stove Top.

I tried to explain it the best I could; it's little dehydrated pieces of bread stuffing that look like croutons. You cook them in water, throw in some seasoning and voila, instant Thanksgiving.

I told her that it tasted great, but she was deeply skeptical. "So this is how everyone cooks?" Janey asked. "This is a main staple of American Thanksgiving? From a box?"

During my semester in London, everyone in my dorm was planning a big dinner for Thanksgiving.

There was just one catch, only three of us had celebrated the holiday before. Everyone else was from either Great Britain or Europe.

I had the traditional Thanksgiving meal, including chicken breasts with leeks, mashed potatoes and gluhwein, a German hot drink.

My brother came to visit and brought a box of Stove Top with him, so I was able to bring my authentic American contribution to the table.

"You can just put the Tabletop anywhere," said Janey. She still wasn't quite getting it.

Before I left the United States, I'd never thought about being an American. I never really felt I had a culture.

For me, American culture is just normal; it seemed to be the absence of culture. But now

that I was abroad, I was forced to think about my own country.

I took a class at the University of Westminster called "Globalization."

There were all British students in my seminar. I was the lone American in a class where

so interesting to be able to talk to my friends from different countries about life in their hometowns. I also got to hear their opinions about my own country.

One of my friends told me, "But you have a lot to be proud of; America makes the best movies." Is that really all there is, I thought? Is that the only impression people from other countries have about the United States that of the pop-culture, Hollywood version of America?

When I went abroad, I vowed I wouldn't be one of those people who came back proclaiming the vast superiority of Europe to everything in America. And while I was discouraged

by some of the headlines I saw about the United States in the London newspaper, I still love my country.

It's all relative. Some things are better in Europe, but some things are better here.

I loved being able to travel in Europe and see different ways of life from what I've known, but I also realized how diverse the United States is both in terms of population, landscape and point of view. Perhaps you can see home more clearly from far away.

But I'm proud to report that one thing is certain: the Stove Top was a big hit that Thanksgiving.

As I read and researched for the class, I felt more confident discussing America's relation to the rest of the world. It was



Adele Chapin in London, England

UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

By Erin Leach-Kemon

"I often give a tour in which I show students one building, beautiful and shining, and one in ruins without refurbishing, so that students can see what would have happened had the reunion not occurred," said Dr. Steiner.

Dr. Petra Steiner, spokeswoman for the University of Erfurt's study abroad program and faculty member at the school, presents this vivid juxtaposition during my recent interview with her.

The generic interview questions clutched in my hand seemed elementary as Steiner began to speak.

Steiner's presence transformed to that of a storyteller, and my entire body gravitated forward in my chair as she drifted into a nearly 20-year-old memory.

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I loved being able to travel in Europe and see different ways of life from what I've known, but I also realized how diverse the United States is both in terms of population, landscape and point of view. Perhaps you can see home more clearly from far away.

But I'm proud to report that one thing is certain: the Stove Top was a big hit that Thanksgiving.

Easterners engaged in numerous demonstrations to protest the lack of freedom in the communistic political system.

With the resignation of a top administrator in East Germany, Easterners gained allowance to cross the borders into the West and eventually a reunification between East and West Germany occurred in 1990.

Steiner said that after the reunification of the East and West, the University of Erfurt experienced change along with the rest of Erfurt with the resurgence of western influence in the aftermath of the reunion.

Since its establishment in 1392, the University of Erfurt has undergone many more tribulations of civil unrest than just the reunification of the East and West. Serving as the third oldest university in Germany, the University of Erfurt survived the Napoleonic Wars, during which it was shut down for a period of time due to France's invasion.

Along with the rich history of the city of Erfurt, the university has cultivated minds such as Martin Luther's, who attended the school during medieval times. Students in the study abroad program participate in an excursion to the actual monastery where Luther stayed, along with the Wartburg Castle where he translated the Bible from Latin to German.

The United States, England and France established the Federal Republic of Germany in West Germany, and settled it as a capitalist society. The Soviet Union formed the German Democratic Republic, and governed East Germany as a communist state.

Recognizing the fleeing of East Germans to the West, the Soviet Union erected the Berlin Wall to prevent dissent. That part that used to serve as

a place for merchants to pause for their horses; and a ballroom from the period of Napoleon's rule.

While the University's study abroad program offers guided tours, various other attractions continuously intrigue students throughout their stay.

Beer gardens are a hot-spot for the majority of students, Steiner said. "But, you don't have to do this!" she hurriedly added.

Recreational sports are also popular. The city recently constructed a skating center to honor an Olympic skater from Erfurt. Steiner suggested that avid skiers study during the winter semester, since cross-country skiing is prominent throughout Erfurt and mountainsides topping



3000' feet are nearby. Aside from the distractions of Erfurt's enticing features, academics play a major role at the University.

The University of Erfurt's emphasis lies within liberal arts courses such as social sciences, religion, economics, philosophy, law, and language.

Language classes include English, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. There are 15 to 20 classes taught in English for those who might desire classes taught in their native tongue.

Steiner described the layout of the dorm rooms as relatively spacious, with one bathroom per room. With an assuming nod in my direction, she inquired, "Mary Washington rooms are designed the same, right?"

Shocked by my explanation that for the most part rooms act as a double, but at times become forced triples, she exclaimed: "That's communist!" I didn't even mention the prices at the Eagle's Nest...

TRIALS AND TRANSPORTATION

Christine Brown in Tokyo, Japan

Navigating through the world's most intricate subway system was the most challenging aspect of my time in Japan. Luckily for me, this map was in English.

Not so lucky was the fact that most of the maps in the stations were only in Japanese. So, if you didn't have your handy-dandy pocket map on you at all times, you'd just pray that if you looked lost and confused long enough some friendly Japanese person would come to your rescue with hopes of being able to practice their English with you.

This was just the first of a long list of things that I had to deal with early on. There was also the purchasing of tickets and the gates that took your tickets and spat them back out. You needed this ticket to exit when you were at your desti-

nation, so my biggest fear was losing this small piece of paper.

On such an occasion, I would have to try and explain with my extensive Japanese vocabulary list of five words to the station attendant that I had lost



my ticket and needed to purchase a new one. That never went over too well, and I tried to avoid it at all costs.

Also difficult was deciding what side of the track you were supposed to be on, getting off at the right stop and finally which of the many exits was the correct one. There

should be an extensive manual handed out to every foreigner, or "gaijin," when they step off the plane. This would spare us a least one occurrence of being that "stupid gaijin" and slowing up the process for all those

the city more than a few weeks, and a group of us decided to venture to Akihabara to do some sight-seeing. We had managed to get through the whole ticket ordeal, and I still hadn't lost my ticket. We came to a stop, and this lady walks onto the train and proceeds to the door opposite of where she entered from.

I don't know about you, but when riding on some kind of public transportation system, I try not to get to friendly with the apparatus that is moving me from point A to point B, but not her.

She got so friendly that, for the 10 minutes she was on the train, licked the window. No joke. She would exhale and fog up the window, and then lick it away. I didn't know what to do with myself. I had to let everyone in on what I was witnessing.

My other companions on the train got nudged, I took a picture with both my camera and my cell phone and shortly after she got off the train I text-messaged everyone in my address book.

Wouldn't you have?

who were unfortunate enough to be graced with our presence.

There was never a dull moment riding on the Tokyo metro. I carried my camera around with me at all times just in case an opportunity arose. My first big shocker was the lady in pink. We hadn't been in

unrest than just the reunification of the East and West. Serving as the third oldest university in Germany, the University of Erfurt survived the Napoleonic Wars, during which it was shut down for a period of time due to France's invasion.

Having lived in Erfurt, Germany for much of her life, Steiner can trace remnants of communism, both through the Soviet-era apartment buildings within the city, and from her own memories of growing up in the German Democratic Republic.

"I can still remember

boiling hot water and

mixing it with cold

water, then pouring it

over my head in the

bath," she said of her

childhood under com-

munist rule.

Following World War II, Germany's territory was broken into East and West Germany.

The United States, England and France established the Federal Republic of Germany in West Germany, and settled it as a capitalist society.

The Soviet Union formed the German Democratic Republic, and governed East Germany as a communist state.

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FROM BRAHMA TO BUDDHA

<Brahma, page B3

I vomited again after dragging my walking time on to five hours due to the weakness of my stomach when we were a mere ten minutes from our campsite.

Day two was a rest day and fortunately my anxiety had lessened with the first day's walk. My stomach settled down enough to allow me to enjoy myself.

From that time on, I didn't look back. Instead, I immersed myself in the emotions and experiences of the trek.

I shared a tent with my friend Raya. Every morning we woke up, sometimes after chilly sleeping situations, to a fresh cup of tea brought by one of our friendly cooking staff around 6:30. After breakfasts that were always filling and delicious, we would pack up, clean up and head out on our journey.

Day three was marked by nothing spectacular. We walked until lunch, under the assumption that we would have to be walking until at least 3 p.m. that day, but we apparently had walked quickly.

Once we arrived for lunch, we were delighted to discover that we were actually finished for the day. We set up camp and rested.

Our rests usually consisted of walking down by the banks of the beautiful Zanskar River to read, journal, or (sometimes) wash our hair. The Zanskar was the ideal backdrop for inspiration on the tougher days, such as the one I am about to describe.

I had been warned about "pass day," but by this point on the trek I was ready to face anything.

After performing the usual morning activities,

Sarah, Ben, and I, the self-described "third string" of our group due to our slow hiking speed, set off. We had walkie-talkies as a means of communication with the faster walking crowd, so we thought that we were set.

Before long, we came to a fork in the path and Sarah asked Adrian which way we should go. He informed us that we should "stay left" and that eventually, we would pass a dry toilet and a flat campground. Feeling confident, we struck off to the left.

Immediately, we were in an upward ascending valley covered in prickly bushes, little streams and the greatest enemy of the hiker: mud. The three of us began our upward climb, and after awhile we realized that there was no one in front of us.

Curious, Sarah radioed Adrian, but we were assured that Brit could see us and that we were just very far below. Shortly after that, we went out of range on the radios. Slowly but surely, huffing and puffing, we reached the precipice we had been striving for at least an hour and a half.

Once at the summit, however, we realized that we still couldn't see anyone from our group. Fortunately, we were back in range with our walkie-talkies and we radioed Gavin, who informed us that we were in the wrong valley.

Somehow, the three of us had managed to get lost in the Himalayas.

What could have been a very bad situation turned out absolutely fine.

Gavin and Namgyal hurried down from 1,000 feet above us, with the knowledge that they would just have to turn

right around and walk all the way up it again, and saved us.

Once we reached our saviors, Ben and I mounted ponies and we set out for "the real pass."

Things were going very well astride the ponies, but it didn't take much to notice that this valley was much snowier than the first, and therefore, much muddier. Before long, the saddle had slid off of my horse due to the slippery terrain and he was forced to trudge through with us stopping intermittently to adjust the saddle.

I had just decided to give the poor animal a bit of a rest and walk for a while when something amazing happened; the mountain made me angry. All of a sudden, the mountain had become much more than a part of nature to be appreciated and marveled at; it became a symbol of everyone who had ever told me, "You can't do this."

"Jess, you could never go to India. You wouldn't be able to handle the poverty."

"Jess, it's nice that you think you want to climb a mountain, but I don't know if you realize how difficult it will be for you..."

"Jess? Sitting in a 10-day meditation course? I can't even imagine that. Instead, I'll imagine her sitting in the time-out corner for talking too much. That's much more realistic."

I needed to show the mountain that I could conquer it, and I needed to >See Brahma, page B6

CAFÉ DELIGHT

Matthew Burger in Hong Kong, China

When I decided to study abroad for a semester in Hong Kong at Lingnan University, food was really the last thing on my mind.

Things were going very well astride the ponies, but it didn't take much to notice that this valley was much snowier than the first, and therefore, much muddier. Before long, the saddle had slid off of my horse due to the slippery terrain and he was forced to trudge through with us stopping intermittently to adjust the saddle.

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In addition, all of the menus on the tables are in Chinese and being unable to ask for an English version is

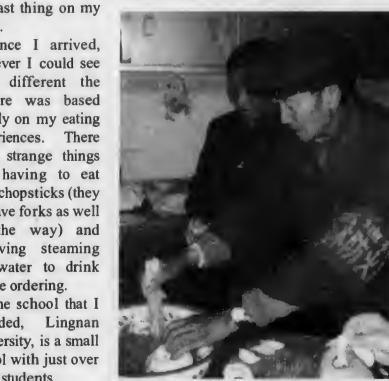
though I still couldn't use them. He went to the waiter's station and got me a fork. After a few weeks, I finally got the hang of chopsticks.

In terms of food, the General Tso's Chicken or Moo Goo Gai Pan that you would order in the United States is not easily found in Hong Kong.

After sampling a few different kinds of foods such as squid, eel and the Chinese version of barbecue, I found that the actual authentic dishes are very different and better than what I can get down the street from Mary Washington. A typical meal includes a big bowl of rice and dishes that are shared by several people.

This revelation of different kinds of Chinese food is not unlike other misconceptions I had before going to Hong Kong.

Café Delight is not very clean, but it's fairly cheap and the food is delicious. The restaurant also holds many memories for me as well because I was able to learn a new language, and meet and talk with many of my new friends while eating delicious food before classes.



The university provides a very relaxed campus life and is located in a city called Tuen Mun in the New Territories of Hong Kong. The environment of the school was very similar to Mary Washington's, except that it was located in a city with over a million people in it.

The small classes were great, and more importantly all were taught in English. Not knowing Chinese isn't a problem when studying abroad at Lingnan because of their two-language system.

If there is a non-local student in the class, then the entire semester will be taught in English. The professors are also very

a problem. Throughout my trip, I constantly had to bring local students with me to places where I might have to communicate with non-English speakers.

I could not even read simple signs for shops on the streets unless they included an English translation (fortunately, most of them did). A good side of this, however, is that I was forced to learn a substantial amount of Cantonese very quickly.

I was also able to begin to understand some of the written language, which was very handy; I continue to study both.

Even if you are in



intelligent and experts in their fields.

Many times after our classes, local students or other exchange students and I would walk across the street from school and go to the mall to eat lunch at a restaurant called Café Delight.

The first culture shock was that not too many people speak English in Hong Kong. All the students speak English well, but if the person is over 30-years-old you can be pretty sure they do not. Needless to say, ordering food was hard in this situation.

Mongkok, the most densely populated place on Earth, people will help a tourist, even if it means finding somebody who speaks English for you.

I experienced this friendliness and hospitality when I was attempting to use chopsticks early in the semester.

An elderly man sitting across the aisle from me attempted to give me a lesson in the proper way to use them. Without being able to speak to me it was very tough, but he was very patient and nice.

Eventually, he helped me in the right direction, even

I was truly able to appreciate the Hong Kong culture in an atmosphere completely removed from tourist spots in the city. I have found a local restaurant back in the United States that serves authentic Chinese food, but I would trade it all for the unbelievably good food and atmosphere that I experienced in Hong Kong.

If you have any desire to study in a place that is completely different, Hong Kong would be my suggestion.

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BREAKING UP WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Evette Lang in Grenoble, France

On Sept. 29, 2005, I broke it off with English.

It was hard, but sometimes you have to let go in order to grow and learn more about the world around you.

Speaking English in France was holding me back. English stays in my mind, and when I must, I use it – once a week during my European Union class.

After switching back and forth between French and English during classes and free time, I figured that I was going to have

to call it quits with one. The logical option was English.

So, how goes my life without English in France? Just fine!

In fact, it was a great idea because now I even speak to myself in French.

In the beginning, it was a bit difficult, especially since the first day of my commitment was during the three-day excursion with the American Institute for Foreign Study, where everyone else could speak and understand English.

How did I make the change you

might ask? First, I lived a double life with things in both languages: my Bible, the DaVinci Code and films in English with French subtitles. Then, I slowly cut off my English.

I bought the Chronicles of Narnia (all seven in French, and now I use an actual French dictionary instead of the French-English dictionary. All the films that I have seen have been in version française.

I pray in French, I read French newspapers and magazines and go to Bible study weekly, where everyone speaks French.

I gave up an old friend to get better acquainted with a new one, but there will be plenty of time to mend my broken relationship with English when I return to the States.

Until then, I'm enjoying myself, and my French friends can enjoy me even more now that they know what I am saying.

I am learning French, I read French newspapers and magazines and go to Bible study weekly, where everyone speaks French.

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THE ROMAN EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Jessica Hiland in Paris, France

In Paris, I lived two blocks away from an ancient Roman arena. It's not that big, but it's still pretty impressive. One day one of my friends and I had to visit it for class.

It was late afternoon when we got there and there are a lot of trees around the arena so it was very shady. My friend and I had stopped to read a plaque when suddenly, out of the shadows, appeared a dozen 10-year-olds.

Every single one of them was holding a light saber.

They quickly broke into two groups and started battling. My friend and I tried to stay out of the way, but more and more kids kept popping up. They were climbing down from the rocks and appearing out of crevices in the walls.



We were remembering reading "Lord

of the Flies" in high school, and I started getting more frightened by the minute. We tried not to make any sudden movements.

After awhile, my friend tried to make conversation.

"So, er, you like Star Wars, huh?" she asked in French.

"Oui!" responded the horde.

Then she picked out the friendliest looking one and said to him, "So you must be Luke Skywalker, right?"

The little kid looked insulted, took a breath and bellowed:

"I am Anakin! Darth Vader! Rah!"

And then we ran away.

I think the Romans would be glad that epic battles are still taking place in the arena, even if they are fake epic space battles.

case half full. You might pack, as I did, thinking that one full suitcase was being an efficient packer, but think again. By the end of the trip, the three people sitting on my suitcase couldn't get it to close. Additionally, you might think that you can send things home halfway through the trip, but when FedEx charges you \$200 to send home a poster, you are stuck with a lot of unwanted and unneeded luggage.

There were many challenges; I have concluded that if I can navigate the maze of metro stops in Paris, I can get around anywhere. Also, I did not know many people in the group even though Mary Washington is a small school. We soon became comfortable with one another and I gained many new friendships from this trip.

With my expanded knowledge on world travel, I wish to extend some to others who might benefit from it. My newly discovered rules of packing and travel conduct are as follows:

- 1) Bring "Febreze."

You may not be able to tell how badly your jeans smell after wearing them 5 times, but others sure can.

- 2) Only fill your suitcase

Europe. I am still craving the chocolate crepes that I ate in Paris.

- 3) Don't just pack layers of clothing; layering doesn't cut it. Pack parkas for freezing London and tank tops for 95 degree Prague.

- 4) Bring prepaid international cell phones. When you get separated from your group and an attempt to reunite becomes an hour ordeal, you realize that a cell phone would solve this frustrating situation in seconds, which makes the situation that much more aggravating.

With this newly gained knowledge, I am ready and willing to jump onto the next plane heading for Europe. I had the most amazing experiences of my life walking the unknown streets of the European Capitals. I would visit the cities again in a heartbeat, especially Vienna.

Vienna was definitely my favorite of all our destinations. It is clean, beautiful and easy to get around. It isn't a very large city, but it is still filled with the amazing history that many of the large European cities have.

UMW'S AUSTRALIA FIELD PROGRAM

By Adele Chapin

The platypus is possibly the strangest animal on earth. It's a mammal that lays eggs, has a bill like a duck and webbed feet, and is poisonous to boot.

UMW senior Katie Broendel's only exposure to the platypus was the Beanie Baby she had in sixth grade.

But during her trip to Australia with

Mary Washington's Australia Field Program in the summer of 2003, Broendel was able to see actual platypuses up close, at the Healesville Animal sanctuary. "They're the weirdest animal I ever learned about, but they are

so cute," she said.

Broendel also saw kangaroo, ate emu, rode in a hot air balloon, snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef

other locations in Australia. Students can also choose to stay an extra week and travel to New Zealand, where they will see



and explored Queensland's ancient rainforests.

This year, students enrolled in Dr. Donald Rallis's three-week summer program will receive 3 credits in geography while traveling to Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and

Auckland and the volcanoes and geysers of Rotorua.

Program dates are May 20-June 10, and the program is open to all majors. Contact Donald Rallis x1492 if interested or visit www.australiastudy.org.

EUROPEAN EXPEDITION

Sarah Elizabeth Miller on the faculty-led program, European Capitals Tour

The European Capitals trip to London, Paris, Berlin, Prague and Vienna was an unforgettable experience.

The knowledge I gained while traveling and exploring European cities is more than I ever expected. I gained book knowledge as well as street smarts for surviving in unknown countries with unknown languages.

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case half full. You might pack, as I did, thinking that one full suitcase was being an efficient packer, but think again. By the end of the trip, the three people sitting on my suitcase couldn't get it to close. Additionally, you might think that you can send things home halfway through the trip, but when FedEx charges you \$200 to send home a poster, you are stuck with a lot of unwanted and unneeded luggage.

- 3) Bring a small calculator. Conversions in most countries are easy, but the Czech Republic always has to make things a little more difficult. You don't want to overdraw your account by thinking that estimating is a smart way to do conversions.

- 4) Make sure you like your roommate. Separated beds do not exist in Europe. Even when your room description reads "two twin beds," do not assume that they are separated or that there is room to separate them.

- 5) Do not expect to lose weight walking the average of seven to ten miles a day. Chocolate, carbohydrates and wine are just too good in

Nudité Sur la Tapisserie

Stephanie Leal on an excursion in Normandy, France with Advanced Studies in Bath, England

There in front of us, on the most famous tapestry in the world, the Bayeux Tapestry, was embroidered a sex scene.

Peter stepped closer. He was peering through the plexi-glass so closely that his breath was fogging the window. The five of us stood behind him giggling, our museum audio-guides all on pause and dangling from our necks.

We stood, arms folded, waiting for him to turn around. It took a while, when we finally heard, "hey guys, did you see..." Peter's voice trailed off as he noticed his five students looking smug as he

Normans just a few years after that date which every British schoolboy has committed to memory: 1066, the Battle of Hastings.

My class of five stood there behind Peter Turner, our 6 foot 4 inch tall genius of a tutor from Worcester College, University of Oxford, reconstructing the information he had been feeding us for the past two weeks about this master-

We had all the possible knowledge we would need in order to fully appreciate the amazing piece of art that hung before us. All the knowledge didn't prepare us for the pornography.

"Peter, why are there naked boys and girls on the Tapestry border?" I asked, reminiscent of a 4-year-old trying to find out where babies come from.

"I don't know," he answered.

"Peter, why did you forget to mention the nudity on the Tapestry? I'd have been more excited to come all the way to France to see it then," Steve said.

"Me too," Peter said. "Peter, the naked people have nothing to do with anything. This border is about the messengers of Harold and William," Emily added with a hint of disgust, "It's not like it was battle and they were raping and pillaging. They were doing nothing."

"I know," Peter said. He leaned back in.

"There is sex on the Bayeux Tapestry," Janet laughed.

"I know," Peter said shaking his head in confusion.

There are only four nudes on the Bayeux Tapestry, and it's not the Kama Sutra or anything, but it is funny. Even to a scholar of the medieval period.

<BRAHMA, page B5

show myself that all the pre-suppositions people had been making about me for my entire life were wrong.

I needed to show myself that I could do whatever I wanted to whenever I wanted to, and that's exactly what I did.

I ditched the pony, adjusted my pack and struggled with all that I am to make it up the 17,000 foot pass: my destination.

And, I did it. Sure, I slipped a few times, was afraid and became tired after walking through snow up to my knees. Something bigger within me, however, that I had always known was present, but never tapped, refused to let me give up.

So it came to pass that Jessica Lindsay Rigel of the previously oh-so-sedentary lifestyle, climbed not one, but two passes in one day.

Upon reaching the top, I stopped to hug my companion, my inspiration and my leader, Sarah Stewart. She stayed with me the whole way. Whether she was in front or behind me, she was positive and carried me over the pass.

When we got to the top we cried individually, but we shed the same tears of gratitude and amazement at the beauty of where we were

and what we had just accomplished.

After a few moments, we headed down and met the rest of the group for lunch. I naively thought that the excitement of the day was over, but I was wrong.

After we had packed up lunch, we had to choose how to get down the massive slope we had just conquered. We chose a snow bank, but before we reached it we had face the mud bank before it.

As we plowed down the mountain, we began to slide on the mud, leading us to scream at first in fear, and then in sheer delight.

Our magnificent group was surfing and sliding down the muddy mountain, constantly falling into prickly bushes and rocks and enjoying every minute of it.

Raya and Adrian decided that it would be much easier to "sled" down the snow-drifts via our individual down jackets than walk, so Raya set about pioneering a sled run. Each of us flew down the run, giggling until we reached the bottom.

After finally reaching the bottom, we were faced with a frozen river instead of the path; our next adventure was to scale up a shale cliff which was constantly falling from beneath our feet as we

walked.

At long last, we were on safe terrain walking down hill through the naturally "purple mountains majesty" that are the Himalayas. Far from the snowy peaks that loomed above us, we set up camp, ate a delicious dinner and fell asleep, exhausted.

We shared coveted Snickers, appreciated our surroundings and each other in a new way, read ghost stories, made fun of Kipling and celebrated our last night with a beautiful cake the cooks made us that read "Happy trek end PVII!"

Now, back in Leh, surrounded by the comforts of Internet cafes and warm beds, it's difficult to believe that I climbed over a 17,000 foot pass.

It's even harder to believe that this trip is almost over, and that in only a few days I'll be forced to reacquaint myself with the United States and put into practice all the valuable life lessons that this amazing journey has taught me. Perhaps what is hardest of all to accept is that too soon I'll be forced to say goodbye to the friends I've made and fallen in love with.

But, a part of me knows that I'll see them again, much sooner than I think, at the top of the mountain.

As we stood, arms folded, waiting for him to turn around. It took a while, when we finally heard, "hey guys, did you see..." Peter's voice trailed off as he noticed his five students looking smug as he

pointed out the embroidery.

"Of course you did," he nodded, his British accent quickly fading into French, "Nudité sur la tapisserie. Pourquoi est-ce que je n'ai jamais noté ceci?"

The History of the Middle Ages class would definitely have faltered if we had not known of the tapestry. It is the God of the tapestry world. Yet, it is not a tapestry at all, but rather a very large embroidery. At over 70 meters long and a half-meter wide with about eight meters missing, it's the longest tapestry ever.

It was commissioned by Bishop Odo, half-brother of William the Conqueror, to depict the fall of England to the

piece before us. He had shown us the reproductions of the most important scenes and what characters of history to look out for; he'd shown the borders and what they meant as well as some of the superstitions placed within the tapestry.

We knew the colors of the yarn (eight altogether: three shades of blue, two green, red, tan, and gray on white linen), where it had been sewn (in Kent, England), we can tell by the style of embroidery), and we knew all the theories behind it (Matilda may have completed this herself). We had seen the Cathedral where it originally hung, and how amazing it was that we still had it around and it wasn't ruined.

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There are only four nudes on the Bayeux Tapestry, and it's not the Kama Sutra or anything, but it is funny. Even to a scholar of the medieval period.



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To be included in the *In Honor Listing* and thank two people or groups of people who've contributed to your college experience, look for the Senior Challenge mailing in your campus mailbox. Fill out your Senior Challenge Pledge Card and send it back to Lee Ann Reaser, Alumni Executive Center 107, or contact Lee Ann at X2069 or reaser@umw.edu if you have questions or would like to pledge via email. **Pledges must be received before April 7, 2006 to be included in the *In Honor Listing*.** For more information, visit www.umw.edu/gift/students.

News



Photos by Russell Howey/Bullet

Parking Deck Underway

► DECK, page A1

spaces on campus. Hurley said that campus officials conducted a study three years ago about parking, and found that UMW was 335 parking spaces short for commuter students. The existing commuter parking lots and spaces will still be available next year in addition to the parking deck.

"This parking deck should make it all work out in the end," Hurley said.

Junior Marcella Cavallaro believes parking is a big issue here on campus and thinks

"I think the parking deck will alleviate a lot of problems with parking," Cavallaro said. "I also think it should be open to anyone on the weekends and between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. every day, just like College Avenue is."

According to Hurley, all funds for the parking deck will be coming from student purchased parking decals.

The price of the stickers will rise to \$200 next fall in order to generate the revenue needed to make the annual debt.

Hurley said that this fall \$260,000 was

generated to fund the parking deck as a result of parking decal sales, and it will take 20 years to make the rest of the money.

The only issue left remaining is whether many students will park in the new parking deck.

Hurley realizes that some students have class on the opposite end of campus and will likely try to park closer to their classes.

"We picked the best place we could for the parking deck," Hurley said. "Fredericksburg residents who live near campus want to be guaranteed that students will not park in front of their houses once the parking deck is ready, but this is not a guarantee I can make."

Robert Hughes, junior, is not happy with the location of the parking deck.

"Even though the parking deck will be there, I'll still try and park on Sunken Road, because all my classes will be in Trinkle and it's going to be a long walk," Hughes said.

Chirico has similar feelings to Hurley regarding students utilizing the parking deck.

"It will solve the problems only if the commuters use the deck; as it was built to the size essentially needed to accommodate the commuters who need to be here at any particular time."

Many commuter students are resistant to the parking deck and buying parking decals. Lynn Webber, BLS student, said she would never buy a parking sticker because they are too much money.

Sherri Alexander, a junior commuter, said she does not want to buy a sticker next year.

"I don't think I'll buy one when the price goes up," Alexander said. "I'll be done with school by Christmas break, so there isn't really any point in buying a \$200 sticker for half a year."

According to Hurley, the parking deck, which will be open by the time classes start next fall, will be a soft-colored, mainly brick structure, with columns that will fit in with the architectural style of the rest of the school.

Donley's Inc. also built the parking deck downtown, and one at the University of Virginia.



The Numbers

\$6 million: Cost of deck

150,000: Square feet

440: Parking spots

\$200: Next year's price of parking decals

20: Years it will take to pay off the cost of the parking deck.

Top, workers began building the parking deck last week. The deck is behind Alvey Hall. Left, the crane used in construction hovers over campus.

Groundskeepers Work Year-Round

UMW Grounds Will Be Ready For Commencement

► GROUNDS, page A1

said. "The actual Arts and Sciences campus only has nine full-time employees to handle everything the department is responsible for."

Those nine people have a laundry list of jobs that fall under their jurisdiction.

They include mowing, weeding, pruning, planting, putting up signs when necessary, snow removal, leaf removal, fertilizing and trash removal.

They have to do all of this while trying not to disrupt classes and other activities.

Wilson said that some of the specialty and high-liability jobs, like extensive tree work, are contracted out to businesses that specialize in those areas.

Other than that, the jobs all fall under her direction.

The time of year helps to determine how busy the Landscaping and Grounds department is.

Currently, the department is gearing up for graduation and the huge influx of people that will be coming to the campus. It is their job to make sure that the campus

looks nice and well-maintained.

One area that is meticulously maintained is the Jepson Alumni Executive Center.

Wilson said the center is booked every weekend for weddings and other events, from now until December, at an average cost of about \$3,000 per event.

These events bring in money to the University—but officials also hope that keeping such a highly visible area looking great will help bring in people who will turn around and donate money, generating even more revenue.

Landscaping officials are trained to use costly equipment.

Lawn mowers used on campus cost between \$17,000 and \$30,000 each—it's important to make sure that they are properly trained.

Not only from the standpoint of the cost of the machine, but more importantly for the safety of the students who are around them.

UMW's landscaping plan is modeled after Virginia Tech's recommended accepted horticultural

“
The department employs 23 people to take care of the Fredericksburg campus.
”

—Joni Wilson

practices.

They have a plan that began last fall, which includes schedule of seeding and fertilizing to get the Ball Circle ready for graduation in May.

Just before the event, they will sod certain areas where grass just won't grow.

Once all of that is done, it's practically time to start all over again.

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